

## PROPOSAL EVALUATION

### *Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant*

PIN	4058	COUNTY	Ventura
APPLICANT	Ventura Countywide IRWM	AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$220,000
PROJECT TITLE	Ventura Countywide IRWM Plan	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$300,000

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Update and complete Ventura County's IRWMP to include updating the regional description, addressing water quantity and quality information needs, establishing objectives, providing a matrix of water management strategies and integrate them with the objectives, correlating objectives and strategies with proposed implementation projects and programs, summarizing impacts and benefits, involving stakeholders, coordinating with other plans and agencies, and incorporating statewide priorities.

**WORK PLAN - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has a detailed and specific work plan that adequately documents the proposal. Weighting factor is 3.**

**Score: 15**

**Comment:** The work plan is clear and implementable and work item submittals are identified. The work plan, budget, and schedule are consistent with respect to work items and sequence of work items. The schedule, even though aggressive, appears reasonable and shows a definite performance period. The IRWMP will be adopted by January 1, 2007. Other sections in the application expand on abbreviated explanations in the work plan.

**DESCRIPTION OF REGION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented a detailed and specific description that adequately documents the region. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score: 5**

**Comment:** The IRWMP will focus on the southwestern area of Ventura County. The IRWMP will include all 10 cities within the target watersheds. The region encompasses three major watersheds, six smaller watersheds, and twenty-six groundwater basins. There are ten cities, three wholesale water agencies, over 170 retail water purveyors, two groundwater management agencies, and five sanitary districts. Eight maps were included with the application that included various agency boundaries. ASBSs, marine protected areas, impaired water bodies, environmental resources, and social and cultural resources are described.

**OBJECTIVES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific planning objectives. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score: 10**

**Comment:** Plan objectives were adopted by the RWMG on April 28, 2005. The objectives are categorized according to issue areas. Some of the objectives address more than one issue area. In addition, the statewide priorities have been numbered and listed after those objectives that they address. Statewide concerns including water supply, groundwater management, ecosystem restoration, and water quality were addressed.

**INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented how water management strategies will be integrated. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score: 10**

**Comment:** The planning process will bring together the strategies set forth in the various existing plans and then identify any gaps and deficiencies. A list of the strategies, which are considered in some of the existing plans, together with a partial catalog of which plans recommend them, was included in the application. It is intended that, as part of IRWMP preparation, a complete matrix of plans and water management strategies will be developed. The synergistic effect is not directly discussed, but appears to be well implied throughout the proposal.

**IMPLEMENTATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately detailed plan implementation. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score: 8**

**Comment:** Implementation will occur through the stakeholder group of prioritized projects. Three subcommittees have been formed: water supply and quality, flood control, and habitat restoration. However, it is not specifically stated that there is a process for monitoring the performance and assurance of project implementation. The applicant states that a schedule will be developed.

**IMPACTS AND BENEFITS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately presented and documented the impacts and benefits of the Plan. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score: 8**

**Comment:** Analysis of the impacts and benefits of the IRWMP and its implementation projects will be undertaken as part of IRWMP preparation. CEQA clearance for the Final IRWMP is included as part of the Plan Preparation Budget and Schedule task. According to Section I of the application, it is anticipated that the IRWMP would use a combination of statutory and categorical exemptions. The potential benefits of the project were not fully developed in the application. The IRWMP could benefit the Bay-Delta region by better managing local water resources to reduce reliance on imported Delta water.

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**DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data and technical analysis components of the proposal. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 4

**Comment:** The RWMG has identified problems with information collection and is already working to reallocate resources to obtain a more balanced and complete picture. The RWMG is working to create standardized data formats that are also compatible with State and federal data needs. Completion of various data-gathering projects, primarily addressing safe yields, will be a key component of the IRWMP. However, the applicant did not discuss how the IRWMP will assess the status of existing water quantity and water quality monitoring in the region or describe any studies that support the planning process.

**DATA MANAGEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data management procedures. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 4

**Comment:** Data will be disseminated to stakeholders, agencies, and the public by being posted on the RWMG's website. The RWMG is already working on established data protocols to ensure that information is collected and organized in formats and with sufficient detail to be compatible with State and federal needs. A thorough discussion of efforts that will support statewide data needs and how proposed water quality monitoring will allow integration of data into SWRCB's statewide data management effort was not provided.

**STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented stakeholder involvement concerns. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 4

**Comment:** There is currently extensive involvement by local stakeholders through the Ventura Countywide IRWM Group which includes most municipalities, water supply organizations, and public trust groups. The RWMG is actively involved in preparation of the grant package, ranking projects, and submitting the grant application. Outreach to portions of the county not incorporated in the IRWMP could improve. Calleguas Creek is not included in the planning grant and the rationale for not incorporating the whole county, including USFS land, was not sufficiently addressed.

**DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented disadvantaged community concerns. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 3

**Comment:** There are relatively small areas DACs in Ventura County that were named and who could benefit indirectly from the IRWMP. During the plan development phase, the stakeholders outreach list will be expanded to include representatives of some of the DACs. Currently those communities are represented by the water and sanitation districts that serve them. The applicant neither addressed water supply and water quality needs of DACs nor how implementation of the IRWMP will directly benefit the DACs.

**RELATION TO LOCAL PLANNING - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented the Plan's relationship to local planning efforts. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 5

**Comment:** The "Interim" and "Final" IRWMP will be based on the numerous water plans and studies that have been developed in recent years and are currently being accumulated and evaluated. The role of the Interim and Final IRWMPs, in relation to the existing documents, will be to integrate the existing plans into a comprehensive, regional plan which builds on and enhances existing efforts. A 1994 Ventura County Water Management Plan was completed except for flood control concerns which are addressed in this proposal.

**AGENCY COORDINATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented agency coordination issues. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 5

**Comment:** The proposed IRWMP provides for coordination and cooperation with the relevant local, State, and federal agencies in plan components. The proposed IRWMP facilitates coordination with local land-use planning decision-makers, in addition to State and federal regulatory agencies. Substantial coordination is well documented.

**TOTAL SCORE: 81**